

*crenata*). He has been working with these for many years and has a remarkable collection of bearing trees at his place in Maryland. The selections of the Chinese species are so resistant to the bark disease as to make it safe to recommend them for orchards, where with careful watching they ought to be as safe investments as peaches or pears or others of our fruit trees. They are not large forest trees. The fate of that other Chinese chestnut (*Castanea henryi*, No. 45670), which grows to a height of 75 to 100 feet on the upper Yangtze River as far west as Mount Omei, remains to be seen. If it should prove resistant to the bark disease it might in a measure take the place of our forest chestnut in certain localities. Although the barberry has been given a jolt through the association which its rust disease has with the rust of wheat, there are species that are perfectly safe from attacks of rust and may be grown freely as doorway shrubs. Let us hope that this is the case with Dr. Van Fleet's cross (No. 45477) between *Berberis wilsonae*, which E. H. Wilson found in China, and *B. aggregata*. The hybrids are very handsome plants for borders, having a spreading low-growing habit, and are hardy in Maryland.

We are so accustomed to think of our own cereal crops as always having been the great food-producing plants of the world that it is a surprise to find in Mexico under cultivation to-day a relative of our common pigweed which in the times of Montezuma formed one of the staple cereal foods of the Aztecs. The seeds of this amaranth (*Amaranthus paniculatus*, No. 45535) filled 18 granaries, each holding 9,000 bushels, in the time of the great ruler. It was made into cakes known as "alegría" and was so highly valued that it had a part in the religious ceremonies of that time. Our present interest in it arises from the fact that it has a most remarkably low water requirement and consequently has distinct possibilities in our Southwest, where water is precious. It may be hoped that our predilection for other but no more palatable grains will not be so strong as to make it impossible to market this ancient one of the Aztecs, which Mrs. Zelia Nuttall sends in from Mexico.

Lamb's-quarters (*Chenopodium album*) has been used in this country by many people, and those who know it declare it is more delicate than that introduced vegetable, spinach, which is now the fashion. The huauhtli of the Aztecs (*Chenopodium nuttalliae*, No. 45536), which Mrs. Nuttall sends in from Mexico, is there used when the seeds are "in the milk," and she considers it a most delicate vegetable.

One of the most interesting of recently introduced vegetables is the mitsuba of Japan (No. 45247), sent in by Mr. Barbour Lathrop as one of the commonest vegetables among the Japanese. Botanically it is *Deringa* (or *Cryptotaenia*) *canadensis*, and curiously enough